

**REMARKS**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to include some limitations of claims 2 and to better define the claimed invention over the art. Claims 3-6 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. New claims 3-6 and amended claim 1 find solid support in the original specification, e.g., page 7, lines 9-24; and the original drawings, e.g., FIG. 4. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 1-2 as being obvious over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (*AAPA*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,465 to *Decker* is noted. The Examiner alleged that *Decker* discloses every claim limitation that is apparently missing from the teachings of *AAPA*, and that it would have been obvious to modify the *AAPA* device to include multiple modulators, as taught by *Decker*, in order to (i) transmit signals over the cable on different specific carrier frequencies, and to (ii) distribute the workload of modulation among multiple modulators instead of putting the burden on one modulator. See the last sentence on page 3 and the first sentence on page 4 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rationale.

First, it is unclear from the language of the Office Action as to where the suggestions or motivations to combine, highlighted above at (i) and (ii), come from, i.e., the *Decker* reference or the knowledge generally available in the art. Clarification is respectfully requested.

Second, *Decker* clearly fails to supply the desirability of the claimed invention. *Decker* relates to a remote video delivery system 60 that transmits video and text from a hotel office to hotel rooms 90. A series of video players 136 generates the video signals to modulators 135. The

modulators 135 transmit the signals on various frequencies. A system controller directs the signals from the modulators 135 to the appropriate converter boxes within the rooms 90 after the signals are mixed, at 174, with cable or satellite signals 175. See Abstract; FIG. 2; and column 5, lines 21-25 of *Decker*.

*AAPA* teaches a receiver for receiving cable/satellite broadcast programs. See page 1, lines 20-22 of the specification.

A person of ordinary skill in the art would at once recognize that the receiver disclosed by *AAPA* is related to the *Decker* system only as means for supplying cable/satellite signals 175 prior to the mixing at 174. Accordingly, a person of ordinary skill in the art would realize that *Decker* does not teach the desirability of providing multiple modulators *within* the cable/satellite receiver. Instead, such a person of ordinary skill in the art would realize that *Decker* only teaches how to additionally introduce text and/or video, using modulators 135 *outside* the cable/satellite receiver, to the cable/satellite signals 175. As a result, the person of ordinary skill in the art upon learning of the teachings of *AAPA* and *Decker* would have been motivated, at best, to add multiple modulators as external circuits to the receiver of *AAPA* in order to add text and/or video to the cable/satellite signals outputted from the receiver as taught at 174 and 174 in FIG. 2 of *Decker*. Such a hypothetical combined device would clearly fail to teach or disclose the claimed modulators which are *internal* part of the claimed modulation circuit.

The obviousness rejection of claims 1-2 is, therefore, deemed in error. Nevertheless, Applicants have amended claims 1-2 solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution.

Amended claim 1 now requires that **the switch be turned off to block the radio frequency signal when the modulators are enabled.**

According to the invention, the switch is turned on/off in response to a switching voltage for passing/blocking a radio frequency signal from a radio frequency input terminal. The switch is

turned off to block the radio frequency signal when the plurality of modulators are enabled. Therefore, the radio frequency signal from the radio frequency input terminal is **isolated** from the signals from the modulators.

In contrast, according to *Decker*, the cable or satellite delivered television signals 175 are combined with the modulated signals by the second combiner 174 without passing through the switching means. Therefore, the isolation of the cable or satellite delivered television signals from the modulated signals cannot be obtained.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over the applied art of record.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1, and are considered patentable at least for the reason advanced with respect to amended claim 1. Claims 2-6 are also patentable on their own merits since these claims recite other features of the invention neither disclosed, taught nor suggested by the applied art.

For example, as to claims 3-5, the applied art fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed **MPEG boards**.

As to claim 6, the applied art fails to disclose, teach or suggest that **the switching voltage is supplied together with the operating voltages of the modulators**, whereby the supplied switching voltage causes the switch to block the radio frequency signal when the modulators are enabled by the supplied operating voltages.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.


The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to

facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

**LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP**



Benjamin J. Hauptman  
Registration No. 29,310

*USPTO Customer No. 22429*  
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 684-1111 BJH/KL/klb  
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile  
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